

New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service United States Department of Agriculture

22 Bridge St, Third Floor PO Box 1444

PO Box 1444 Aubrey R. Davis, Director Concord, NH 03302 www.usda.gov/nass

603-224-9639 Fax: 603-225-1434 nass-nh@nass.usda.gov



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USDA TO MEASURE CHICKENS & EGG PRODUCTION

In 1999, the New England egg industry ranked 14th in the nation when combining all six states and comparing the number of layers nationwide. New England egg production from table and hatchery flocks accounted for over \$122 million to farmers, which was over 5.7 percent of all agricultural cash receipts in the region in 1999. This important sector of the agricultural economy cannot be overlooked, therefore official USDA statistics are used to measure the size and significance of this industry.

USDA's Chickens and Eggs survey is the only chance to officially measure the entire layer industry in New England for 2000. This annual survey is part of a national study to establish official USDA statistics for egg production and layer, pullet, and rooster inventories on December 1 (excluding broilers). The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is responsible for conducting this survey across all six states in the region. Your help is vital to the success of this project because we are contacting all table egg flocks with over 3,000 layers and all hatchery flocks across New England. As with all surveys conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, individual reports are kept strictly confidential and used only with other reports for statistical purposes.

In late November, approximately 40 New England poultry operations will receive questionnaires in the mail, and in mid-December non-respondents will be asked for their help over the telephone. The results of the survey are used by farmers, grower associations, extension specialists, suppliers, lenders, and lawmakers when reviewing farm practices and policies.

National survey results will be released in the *Layers and Egg Production* report from Washington, D.C. on January 29, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. The monthly statistics are published on the Internet at the end of every month. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. Statistics are also reprinted in the monthly *Ag Review*. This monthly New England newsletter is available on the Internet and complimentary copies are also mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, NH, and is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at NASS-NH@NASS.USDA.GOV. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

For More Information Contact: Emily McAllister or Aubrey Davis at 1-800-642-9571.